

OPENING STATEMENT
CONGRESSMAN STEPHEN J. SOLARZ
HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON ASIAN AFFAIRS HEARING ON
THE MURDER OF HENRY LIU

HENRY LIU WAS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN OF CHINESE ANCESTRY. HE WAS AN JOURNALIST WHO WROTE ON THE POLITICS OF TAIWAN, WHERE HE LIVED FOR ALMOST TWENTY YEARS AFTER 1949. IN HIS WORK, HE MARRIED THE PRINCIPLES OF AMERICAN INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING TO A CHARACTERISTICALLY CHINESE FOCUS ON THE MORALITY OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS.

ONE MIGHT QUARREL WITH WHAT HENRY LIU HAD TO SAY, BUT NO-ONE CAN DISPUTE THE FACT THAT HIS RIGHT TO WRITE AS HE WISHED WAS PROTECTED BY THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTION. APPARENTLY HIS FREEDOM OF SPEECH WAS NOT PROTECTED ENOUGH, FOR HENRY LIU WAS FOUND SHOT TO DEATH ON THE MORNING OF OCTOBER 15TH, IN HIS GARAGE IN DALY CITY, CALIFORNIA.

THE SUBSEQUENT INVESTIGATION REVEALED THAT THE CRIME ITSELF WAS PLANNED AND CARRIED OUT BY MEMBERS OF A TAIWAN CRIMINAL ASSOCIATION-- KNOWN AS THE BAMBOO GANG. TWO OF THE GANG MEMBERS HAVE CHARGED WITH MURDER BY THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA. EVEN MORE STARTLING WAS THE JANUARY 15 ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE TAIWAN GOVERNMENT THAT THREE OFFICIALS IN ITS MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BUREAU WERE INVOLVED IN THE KILLING AND APPARENTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR RECRUITING THE ASSASSINS FOR THIS REPREHENSIBLE ASSIGNMENT. HOW EXACTLY THEY WERE INVOLVED IS NOT PUBLICLY CLEAR, BUT IT WAS SUFFICIENTLY GRAVE TO LEAD TO TAIPEI'S ANNOUNCEMENT AND TO THE ARREST OF THE THREE OFFICIALS.

I CANNOT EXAGGERATE THE SENSE OF OUTRAGE WHICH THE REPORTED INVOLVEMENT OF OFFICIALS OF THE TAIWAN GOVERNMENT IN THE MURDER OF AN AMERICAN CITIZEN ON AMERICAN SOIL PROVOKES IN ME. THE GENIUS OF THE AMERICAN SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT IS THAT IT OFFERS BROAD OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE POLITICALLY TO THINK, SPEAK, AND ACT AS THEY WISH. IT SHOULD NOT OFFER ANY OPPORTUNITY WHATSOEVER TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS TO PUNISH CRITICS OF THEIR REGIMES WHO RESIDE IN THE UNITED STATES.

I KNOW THAT THERE MAY BE SOME DISAGREEMENT AMONG MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE AND IN THE CONGRESS OVER WHETHER THE UNITED STATES SHOULD PUT PRESSURE REPRESSIVE REGIMES ABROAD TO RESPECT THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF PEOPLE IN THEIR OWN TERRITORY. BUT I AM SURE WE ALL AGREE THAT THE TERRITORY OF THE UNITED STATES SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO BECOME A HUNTING GROUND FOR FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS WISHING TO STIFLE DISSENT.

PART OF MY OUTRAGE STEMS FROM THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME THAT TAIWAN HAS ABUSED THE FREEDOMS OF INDIVIDUALS IN THE UNITED STATES. IN THE PAST, THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS CREDIBLE CHARGES OF SURVEILLANCE, INTIMIDATION, AND HARASSMENT IN THE UNITED STATES BY AGENTS OF TAIWAN'S INTELLIGENCE SERVICES, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO TAIWANESE STUDENTS IN OUR COUNTRY.

THREE AND A HALF YEARS AGO, PROFESSOR CHEN WEN-CHENG, A TAIWANESE PERMANENT RESIDENT ON THE FACULTY OF CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY, WAS DETAINED, INTERROGATED, AND KILLED WHILE IN TAIWAN. MEMBERS OF THE

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE WILL REMEMBER THAT HEARINGS OF THIS SUBCOMMITTEE REVEALED THAT PROFESSOR CHEN WAS TARGETED FOR THIS TREATMENT BECAUSE HE HAD BEEN SPIED UPON AT PUBLIC MEETINGS IN THE UNITED STATES. AS A RESULT OF THE CHEN CASE, CONGRESSMAN LEACH AND I SECURED PASSAGE OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT WHICH FORBIDS THE SALE OF ARMS TO COUNTRIES WHICH THE PRESIDENT DETERMINES HAVE ENGAGED IN A CONSISTENT PATTERN OF ACTS OF INTIMIDATION OR HARASSMENT AGAINST INDIVIDUALS IN THE UNITED STATES.

THIS MOST RECENT EPISODE RAISES A NUMBER OF SERIOUS QUESTIONS FOR THE CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

FIRST OF ALL, HAVE THE RELEVANT AGENCIES OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH ACTED PROPERLY IN TRYING TO SECURE JUSTICE FOR HENRY LIU, BY MOUNTING A VIGOROUS INVESTIGATION AND TAKING APPROPRIATE DIPLOMATIC STEPS?

SECOND, IS THE MURDER OF HENRY LIU AN ISOLATED INCIDENT OR IS ONLY THE MOST VISIBLE MANIFESTATION OF A CONSISTENT PATTERN OF ACTS OF INTIMIDATION OR HARASSMENT?

THIRD, IS THE EXISTING LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR RESTRICTING ILLEGITIMATE FOREIGN AGENT ACTIVITY STRONG ENOUGH? OR IS NEW LEGISLATION REQUIRED TO BETTER PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE WITHIN THE TERRITORIAL BOUNDARIES OF THE UNITED STATES?

THIS HEARING IS THE BEGINNING OF A PROCESS THROUGH WHICH THIS SUBCOMMITTEE WILL SEEK FULL ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS. CONTRIBUTING TO OUR UNDERSTANDING TODAY ARE FOUR DISTINGUISHED WITNESSES:

--THE HONORABLE NORMAN Y. MINETA, A MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA. WITHIN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, CONGRESSMAN MINETA IS THE MOST SENIOR MEMBER OF ASIAN ANCESTRY, SO IT IS HIGHLY APPROPRIATE THAT HE TESTIFY TODAY.

--THE HONORABLE WILLIAM BROWN, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS.

--MRS. HELENA LIU. FOR MYSELF, AND I AM SURE FOR OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, I WOULD LIKE TO PAY A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO MRS. LIU FOR HER WILLINGNESS TO APPEAR TODAY AND SPEAK ON A SUBJECT WHICH I AM SURE STILL CAUSES DEEP EMOTIONAL ANGUISH.

--PROFESSOR MICHAEL GLENNON, OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI LAW SCHOOL. FROM 1977 TO 1980 PROFESSOR GLENNON WAS LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE. AMONG THE SUBJECTS ON WHICH HE SPECIALIZED WAS FOREIGN AGENT ACTIVITY IN THE UNITED STATES.

AFTER THE WITNESSES HAVE PRESENTED THEIR TESTIMONY AND MEMBERS HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO POSE QUESTIONS, THE SUBCOMMITTEE WILL PROCEED TO CONSIDER AND MARKUP HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 49, WHICH EXPRESSES THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS THAT THE TAIWAN AUTHORITIES SHOULD COOPERATE FULLY IN THE CASE OF HENRY LIU BY DELIVERING TO THE UNITED STATES FOR TRIAL THOSE CITIZENS OF TAIWAN CHARGED BY AUTHORITIES IN THE UNITED STATES IN CONNECTION WITH THE MURDER.